



**HISTORIC
FLOODING
IN COTTAGE
GROVE**

RIPARIAN

AREA
Clean Water
News

Cottage Grove Community Development Department
Update for Riparian Corridor Neighbors



FALL ADDITION

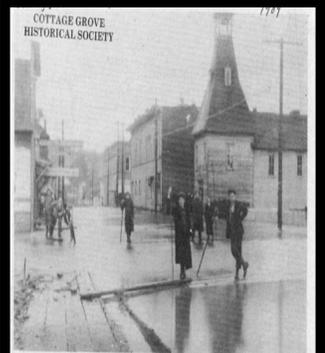
SEPTEMBER , 2020

New Flood Damage Prevention Code

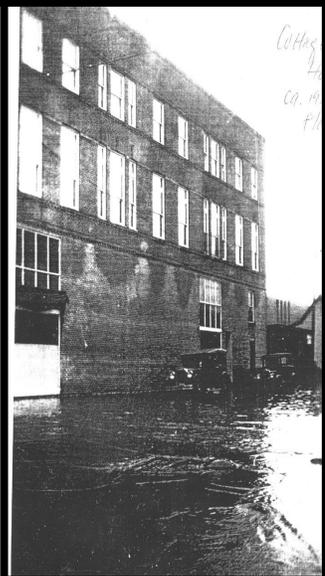


Row Your Boat

Flood waters were a daily occurrence in Cottage Grove before the construction of the levee and Cottage Grove dam on the Willamette River. The photo shows the view from the intersection of S. 6th Street and Washington Avenue looking north toward Main. The building with the tower is the city hall, located where the US city hall now stands.



These young people apparently took the annual winter floods in stride as they posed unchalantly for a photo. This picture was taken from the intersection of S. 6th Street and Washington Avenue looking north toward Main. The building with the tower is the city hall, located where the US city hall now stands.



The Cottage Grove City Council adopted a new version of the Flood Damage Prevention Code (Municipal Code Chapter 14.37.200) on Monday, August 24th, 2020. This new code is based upon the 2019 State of Oregon Model Companion Flood Hazard Management Ordinance.

The model flood hazard ordinance includes standards and provisions that encourage sound floodplain management. The language is based on the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) found in the

Code of Federal Regulations (CFRs), Oregon's statewide land use planning Goal 7, and the Oregon specialty codes.

Chapter 14.37.200 Flood Damage Prevention regulates "development" in Special Flood Hazard Areas. Development means any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials.

Per 14.37.200.J, a Floodplain Development Permit shall be obtained prior to start of all proposed construction and other development within any area horizontally within the Special Flood Hazard Area.

You can find our Floodplain Development Permit Application at <https://www.cottagegrove.org/cd/page/floodplain-development-permit-application>.

You can read the new Flood Damage Prevention Code on the City's website, at www.cottagegrove.org.

The direct link is <https://www.codepublishing.com/OR/CottageGrove/#!/CottageGrove14CottageGrove1437.html#14.37.200>.

Or you can contact Amanda Ferguson, Floodplain Manager, Public Works & Development, at planner@cottagegrove.org or (541) 942-3340.

We are happy to help you navigate through this process!

Flood Insurance Corner

Tip #1: Do you have a flood insurance policy? If so, see if you have contents coverage!

Tip #2: There is a 30-day waiting period before a flood insurance policy takes effect, so call your insurance agent now.



Information on Wildfires in Oregon:

The State has created a website to provide a fast way for you to get updated information about Oregon's wild-fire's at:

<https://wildfire.oregon.gov/>



COTTAGE GROVE'S FLOOD RISK NEW MAPS ARE COMING...

As a Riparian Resident, your property may be subject to flooding by the Coast Fork Willamette River or the Row River, particularly if we experience a "100-year flood."

But what does a 100-year flood look like? The last major flood in Cottage Grove was in 1964 – and it was an 80-year flood, based on current calculations.

The flows coming from Dorena Dam (along Row River) or Cottage Grove Dam (along the Coast Fork Willamette River) could be 25% higher than we have seen in over 100 years, and those flood waters will cover a lot more of Cottage Grove than we

have ever seen. It is likely, however, that the "100-year" flood in Cottage Grove would be relatively shallow – between 6"-2' in most places.

All of this is what the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) new Preliminary Draft Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) show for Cottage Grove and Central Lane County.

In October, 2020, FEMA will officially be revealing the long-awaited **Preliminary FIRM maps for Central Lane County**, which provide new 100-year floodplain delineations for the Coast Fork Willamette River and its tributaries

(including Row River and Mosby Creek). The impacted communities, including Cottage Grove, Creswell, Eugene, Springfield, and Lane County, will have **90 days to comment and/or appeal the new maps.**

We will be sending letters out to all impacted properties in October. We will also be available to answer all questions (or direct you to the appropriate FEMA representative).

STAY TUNED!

Want to see the new maps in advance? Contact your floodplain administrators, at the Public Works & Development Dept.!

(541) 942-3340

Be Prepared! Be Prepared! Be Prepared!

In any emergency the best defense is preparation. This week we have seen so much of our gorgeous state up in smoke, and fire season is not over yet. Fear and a feeling of helplessness can wash over when natural disasters take place. While we cannot predict when the next wildfire will take place, having a plan for your family, pets, and home can help take away some of the fear that comes with these situations.

Part of being prepared means having food, water and other supplies to last for several days. A **disaster supplies kit** is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency.

After assembling your kit, remember to maintain it so it's ready when needed. Keep canned food in a cool, dry place. Store boxed food in tightly closed plastic or

metal containers. Replace expired items as needed. Re-think your needs every year and update your kit as your family's needs change. Additional info is available at <https://wildfire.oregon.gov/>.



WHAT DO I DO TO REDUCE MY RISK?

So what can you do to reduce your risk during this 100-year event?

KNOW your risk.

Call 541-942-3340 to find out the current & projected flood hazard for your property. Check out our website <https://www.cottagegrove.org/cd/page/flood-information>. When it is available, check out FEMA’s website on the Preliminary

Draft FIRM maps (see related article) for what the experts are saying is your property’s projected risk.

Protect yourself from hazard.

Make a plan for your family. Build a 14-day emergency kit.

Protect your property from the hazard.

Get Flood Insurance.

Build Responsibly.

Our Building Official can provide tips for protecting your existing or new home from a flood. New construction should be elevated so that it is above the “base flood elevation” (above the expected flood levels of the 100-year flood). This includes new utilities like HVAC units, electric meters, and water heaters. Proper venting in your

crawlspace can allow floodwaters someplace to go and reduce potential damage to your foundation.

And remember: Floodplain Development Permits are required for all development in the flood hazard areas.

Contact the Public Works Department for more information at 541-942-3340 or via our website at www.cottagegrove.org.

WHY IS RIPARIAN VEGETATION IMPORTANT?

During high stream flows, riparian vegetation slows and dissipates floodwaters. This prevents erosion that damages fish spawning areas and aquatic insect habitats.

Riparian vegetation is essential for maintaining high water quality in streams, rivers, lakes, and along shorelines.

Riparian vegetation also provides food, nesting, and hiding places for animals. Riparian vegetation shields streams and rivers from summer and winter temperature extremes that may be very stressful, or even fatal, to fish and other aquatic life.

The cover of leaves and branches brings welcome

shade, ensuring that the stream temperature remains cool in the summer and moderate in the winter.

Remember these tips when you are working on your stream banks or backyards this winter! Blackberries and dead branches should be removed, but not native riparian vegetation!





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September is National Preparedness Month



Join the City of Cottage
Grove and get prepared
during September.

For information, go to : [https://
www.cottagegrove.org/cd/page/emergency-
management](https://www.cottagegrove.org/cd/page/emergency-management)



FEMA Ready

PREPARED,
NOT SCARED

National Preparedness Month 2019